



UNITED NATIONS STAFF UNION
SYNDICAT DU PERSONNEL DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS
UNIES

45th STAFF COUNCIL/45ème CONSEIL DU PERSONNEL

Minutes/Actes

Meeting No: 45/11

Date: 22 June 2017

Time: 1:15 – 2:50 pm

Venue: CR 12

45th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

1. Adoption of Agenda

The Council voted to add the resignation of the Secretary and election of a new Secretary as point 5 of the agenda. The modified agenda was adopted unanimously.

2. Adoption of Minutes of previous Council meeting

Previous minutes were adopted unanimously.

3. Executive Board report, President's report, and summary of communications

UNSU Leadership met with AFT, President Bibi Sherifa Khan discussed the "deep cuts" coming to the UN system, which were already taking effect within Peacekeeping operations. Leadership had requested help from the AFT to form a "campaign" in relation to the deep cuts.

Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 06) tabled a motion for the Council to vote on a proposal to appoint 2 Council members as liaison officers to AFT and be present at meetings. The motion passed with 8 votes in favour, none against and 4 abstentions. In general, Michelle Rockcliffe believed it was not advisable for meetings to be held with a single representative on the Union's side.

Andraž Melanšek (Unit 17) requested that the President's report and summary of communications be submitted in advance of the meeting so Council members could read them.

4. UNSU finances

Assistant Treasurer Rosemary Lane informed the Council on the recent audit report. The Council agreed to make the audit report available to the Union.

Representative Kegham Tamamian (Unit 25) asked the Assistant Treasurer for a list of Staff Councilors who were not dues paying members. The Assistant Treasurer said she would transmit the request to the Treasurer.

5. Election of new Secretary

Current Secretary Andraž Melanšek explained the reasons for his resignation, expressing frustration at the work dynamics on the Executive Board. He expressed his willingness to continue to work on the Council, including on issues related to peacekeeping. A number of Council members regretted his resignation and thanked him for his work.

A vote was taken by the Council to elect a new Secretary. Aitor Arauz-Chapman (Unit 29) was elected with 8 votes in favour. Aitor Arauz-Chapman will now replace Andraž Melanšek as Secretary.

6. Resolution 10 on ICSC in Vienna

Resolution for travel to ICSC in Vienna was introduced by the Chair. The 1st Vice-President provided further details on the meeting. Mériem Harbi (Unit 28) inquired about the method for calculating DSA. The 1st Vice-President replied that standard ICSC rates had been applied. The resolution was voted on and passed, 12 in favor, none against and 2 abstentions. After the vote, Mériem Harbi called for ICSC UNGA standards of accommodation for air travel to be applied consistently for all travel requests in future.

7. Resolution 11 NASA meeting in Entebbe Resolution

The President introduced the resolution with some background on the NASA meeting in Entebbe, underlining that National Staff Associations are represented at HQ by the Leadership, as associate members of UNSU. The meeting agenda had not been circulated to the Council due to a forwarding error. Michelle Rockcliffe made the point that UNSU delegations should include a member of the Council in addition to Leadership. Aitor Arauz-Chapman inquired about the distribution of roles between the President and Vice-Presidents in terms of representing the Union before National Staff. Upon a question from Esteban Casin (Unit 34) about the number of future trips planned, a number of Council Members called for a calendar of future travel. Various Council Members suggested the use of VTC. Others inquired if DFS could not fund the trip. The President and other members stressed the importance of attending meetings in person and travelling according to the rules. Andraž Melanšek underlined that DFS cuts would ultimately be decided at HQ in New York. The resolution was put to the vote: 5 in favor, 4 against and 4 abstentions. The Resolution passed.

[In the absence of the Deputy Chair, Aitor Arauz-Chapman took over the Chair at 2:30]

8. General Meeting

1st Vice-President Patricia Nemeth informed the Council that the Broadcast about the GM was imminent, with a number of attached documents for members' information. The meeting would be held on Wednesday 28 at 1:15. Questions were asked about staff participation. Leadership intended to take questions by email. Mériem Harbi defended the use of Sli.do. The Chair reminded the meeting that the use of Sli.do had been decided at the previous Council meeting. It was decided to add a reference to the app on the agenda.

9. UNSU work plan

The Council Work Plan was voted on by the Council. With 8 in favor, none against and 1 abstention, the UNSU work plan was adopted.

10.WG on UNSU Statute and Regulations

Kegham Tamamian proposed to create a steering group to push ahead with the WG on UNSU Statute and Regulations, was voted on, passed unanimously. Kegham Tamamian, Mériem Harbi and Andraž Melanšek volunteered to sit on the steering group.

On the topic of the review of UNSU Statute and Regulations the President suggested involving Ms. Carmen Artigas in a remunerated advisory capacity. The Council requested Leadership to submit a proposal to that effect at the next meeting.

On the topic of legal counsel, Michelle Rockcliffe moved for the Union to retain legal advice within the week. The Council requested Leadership to submit a proposal to that effect at the next meeting.

The President recalled that the cost of litigation on the Pension Fund should be borne by CCISUA, not exclusively by UNSU, since it affected the whole common system. Given the importance of the issue it was decided to include a point on the Pension Fund on the agenda for the next meeting.

11. Units Chairpersons meeting

The Council had decided that the Chairman should convene a meeting of Unit Chairs. Members wished to ask the Chairman why he was reluctant to do so. In his absence, the Council renewed its request to the Chairman that he convene a meeting with the 11 Unit Chairs whose election was unquestionable.

12.Other Business:

2nd Vice-President, Cristina Silva informed the Council that the UN Staff Day had been approved and scheduled for 8 September 2017.

Assistant Treasurer Rosemary Lane followed up on her request for a briefing by DM on the Global Service Delivery Model. The President agreed to follow up and arrange the briefing.

Andraž Melanšek raised concerns related to UNSU's website. Aitor Arauz-Chapman said he would follow up as new Secretary.

Michelle Rockcliffe informed the Council that the fund for Syria had at this time raised \$11,000. [applause].

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.